

Yard Wise!

Fall Tips for a Healthy, More Resilient Lawn and Garden

WATERING – Adjust watering to reflect the shorter days. An occasional deep watering may be all that your landscape needs now. Deep watering promotes deep roots!

MULCH – Replenish mulch on planting beds to feed the soil, keep weeds down, and retain soil moisture.

LAWN CARE – Once the weather cools down and the rains begin, fertilize your lawn with organic or slow-release fertilizer. This is also a good time to de-thatch, overseed, or topdress, if needed.

FALL PLANTING – Cooler temperatures and fall rains provide optimal conditions for planting. Amend your soil and use the right plant in the right place.

For more information visit us at www.savingwater.org.



Contact the Garden Hotline experts for free answers to your gardening questions! (206) 633-0224 or www.GardenHotline.org

Friend us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/SavvyGardenerNews



Choose Greener Businesses

Looking for a dry cleaner? Landscaper? Dentist? Vet? Mechanic? Marina? Choose an EnviroStars certified business and help make Seattle a healthier place to live, work and play.



What does the star mean?

It means the business manages, stores, recycles, or safely disposes of hazardous wastes and toxic materials. It also means they are committed to reducing or eliminating these materials and wastes from their routine business operations.

Look for the stars.

The EnviroStars logo and window decal provide an easy way for you to identify and support these businesses. They tell you that we inspected and evaluated their business hazardous waste management practices and we approve!

Find an EnviroStars business.

Visit EnviroStars.org and search by city, county or business type to find businesses near you.

It's good for business, good for the environment, and good for you! EnviroStars is a

program of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County.

Free Compost for Composters!

Last year, Seattle residents helped divert more than 125,000 tons of food and yard waste from the landfill by composting their food scraps.

Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle Tilth and Seattle's new composting partner, Lenz Enterprises, are offering one-half yard of Seattle-made compost – a \$30 value – to residents who pledge to compost their food waste!

Applying compost in the fall is a great way to help your lawn and garden thrive and grow next spring!

Compost will be available for pick up on the following weekends:

NE Seattle: Saturday, Sept. 27 and Sunday, Sept. 28 10 am – 3 pm

SE Seattle: Saturday, Oct. 4 and Sunday, Oct. 5 10 am – 3 pm

Hurry! Compost offer is limited to the first 500 customers.

To schedule a time for pick up and reserve your free compost, visit www.gardenhotline.org.

Questions? Call the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224.

Up to one-half yard of compost per vehicle/household. Seattle residents only, while supplies last. Be prepared to show driver's license. Compost is unbagged and self-haul, so bring a proper vehicle, gloves and a shovel!

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For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.
如需要口譯服務，請撥電話206-684-3000。
통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.
Wixli turjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadian la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000.
Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.
Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.
Vê dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.

Look Inside for \$350 in Savings!

Seattle Public Utilities
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PO Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

FALL 2014

Seattle Public Utilities

CurbWaste & Conserve



BARTELL DRUGS

Bartell's BioBag Sale Ends Sept. 30

Recent surveys show that more than 4 out of 5 Seattleites regularly put their food scraps and food-soiled paper in the the yard waste cart.



Vegetable and fruit trimmings, meat, fish, poultry scraps, bones, plate scrapings, egg shells, coffee grounds, paper towels and napkins—even pizza delivery boxes—all can be composted in your yard waste cart. Food scrap containers and compostable bags can make composting easier.

During the month of September, Seattle, King County, BioBag, and Bartell Drugs are bringing you huge savings on kitchen scrap containers and BioBag compostable bags at a Bartell Drugs near you. Learn more and find a retailer near you at www.recyclefood.com.



TOO GOOD TO WASTE



Whether it's moldy cheese, slimy lettuce, or long lost leftovers in the back of the fridge, chances are you've wasted food this week. And you're not alone. In a recent study, Seattle households estimated that about 1/3 of all food scraps they throw out could've been avoided.

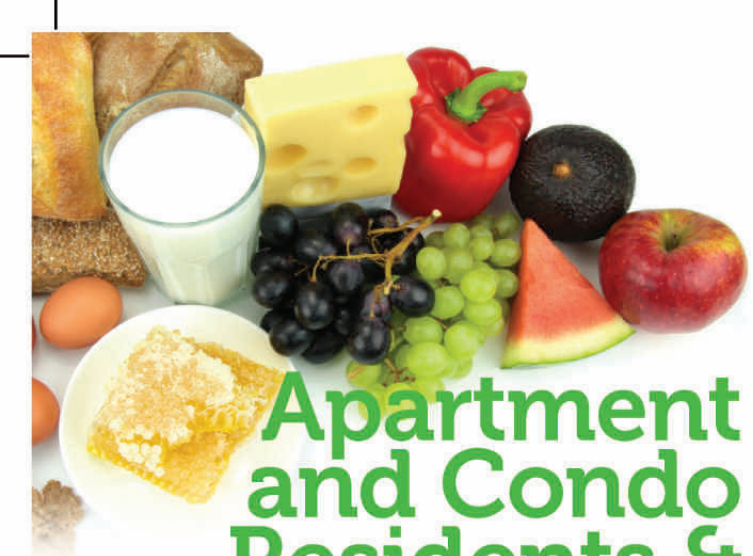
That rotten apple isn't the only thing going into your food and yard waste cart. You're also throwing away money, along with all the water, energy and other resources used to grow that apple and get it to your plate.

One way to waste less is by storing foods to make them last longer. For example, did you know that potatoes and apples make friendly neighbors? Apples help prevent potatoes from sprouting.

Store them together in a cool, dark place, like a pantry. But keep onions away from potatoes since they make each other spoil!

For more tips on how to waste less food, visit www.seattle.gov/util/ReduceReuse.

The information in this newsletter can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance. Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TDD telephone number is (206) 233-7241. Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.



Apartment and Condo Residents & Managers

Seattle's recycling program is world class and composting food waste is the key ingredient to becoming champions!

You can tip the balance.

If your building does not have a food and yard waste cart or you want improvement, SPU offers free resources:

FRIENDS OF RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING (FORC) PROGRAM:

A one-time \$100 rebate, and a training which qualifies your property for free kitchen food waste containers for every unit plus a three-month stock of 3-gallon compostable bags with dispenser.

www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS.

Leave message at (206) 684-8717, press "2"

POSTERS, LABELS AND BROCHURES IN MANY LANGUAGES.

www.seattle.gov/util/recyclingeducation

Your recycling and composting efforts protect the environment, reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill, reduce your repair costs, and make your building a green-friendly place to live.



The holidays are fast approaching, and with them all the uninvited catalogs and advertisements piling up in your mailbox!

Stop unwanted junk mail by using the FREE opt-out service provided through the City of Seattle and Catalog Choice. Just go to www.seattle.gov/stopjunkmail, click on the big green button, and sign up with Catalog Choice. Then each time you're bugged by unwanted junk mail, go to the site, enter the company name and stop that junk mail. You can also use the site to stop phone books!

A small investment in time can save you a lot more in the long run. The average person in the U.S. spends 8 months in a lifetime dealing with junk mail. That's a lot of wasted time, not to mention all the wasted trees, water and energy that go into making unwanted mail.

Save time and help the environment by joining more than 27,000 Seattle residents and businesses already using the FREE service!

Clothes, Shoes & Linens Wanted: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

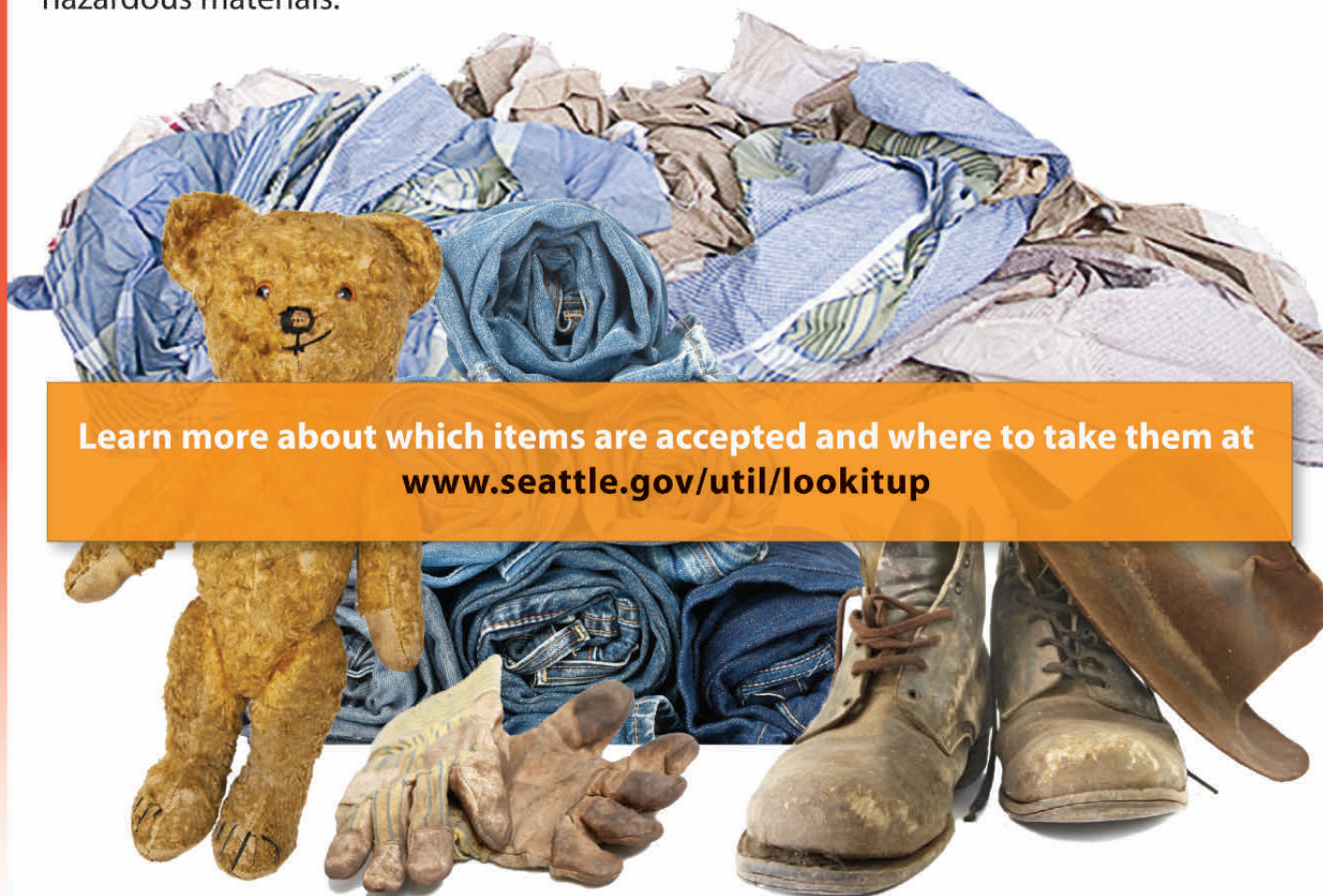
FROM OLD CLOTHES TO NEW PRODUCTS

Do you toss damaged clothes, shoes and household linens into the trash because you think they can't be donated? We've got great news: items that aren't reusable can be recycled into industrial wiping cloths, carpet padding, insulation and more.

In the past, only "gently used," resalable items could be accepted by area thrift stores, drop boxes and collection sites. But textile markets have changed. Nearly every large collector in our area sorts materials into several categories – some for resale and some for recycling into new products.

CONVENIENT DROP OFFS OR PICK UPS

So along with reusable clothes, gather up your mismatched socks, ripped t-shirts and faded, old sheets. Take them to a nearby collection site or drop box, or arrange for collection. MORE clothes, shoes and linens are acceptable than ever before—the good, the bad, and the ugly—as long as they're not wet, moldy or contaminated with hazardous materials.



Learn more about which items are accepted and where to take them at www.seattle.gov/util/lookup

Keep Trash Out of Toilet

Did you know that so-called "flushable" wipes and other trash are causing serious plumbing and sewer problems across the city?

FACT: Toilet paper is the only product, besides human waste, that breaks down when it's flushed. Everything else (yes, everything!) can cause expensive clogs and backups, and wreaks havoc on the city's sewer system.



Seattle faces ever-increasing problems caused by flushed trash such as wipes, dental floss and facial tissue. This is a clog in the Madison Park neighborhood.

KEEP IN MIND: Just because it flushes, doesn't make it safe to flush. Even if it makes it through your pipes, it is likely contributing to problems that could cause your sewage to back up.

USE THE TRASH—not the toilet, to dispose of feminine hygiene products, dental floss, condoms, and all types of wipes—even facial tissue.

IGNORE—product labels that say "flushable."

BOTTOM LINE: If it's not toilet paper, put it in the garbage! To learn more, visit www.seattle.gov/util/sidesewer.

Free Toilets!

(INCOME-QUALIFIED ONLY)

Seattle Public Utilities, in partnership with Minor Home Repair, is providing free toilets and installation for income-qualified homeowners.

For example, a family of four earning less than \$4,905 per month may qualify. Homes must be located in the City of Seattle and have existing toilets installed before 2004.

For more information, call (206) 448-5751 or go to www.seattle.gov/util/freetoilets.



DON'T DRIP AND DRIVE: Fix that Leak!

Attend a FREE Auto Leaks Workshop—a \$125 value! Get your car inspected by a Certified Mechanic. Find out if you have any leaks and identify the source of the leaks. A leaky car isn't reliable, and it's harmful to the Puget Sound. Learn more at www.seattle.gov/util/cartips.

Choose from these dates at South Seattle College in West Seattle: Sept. 13, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, or Dec. 13.

REGISTER TODAY—SPOTS FILL FAST!

Call (206) 684-7643 or email maythia.airhart@seattle.gov